

**Pastor Mark Mikels - DECEMBER 2, 2018**

**"APPREHENDING ABBA"**

**"MY ABBA IS LOVING ... Lavishly Loving"**

(John 3:16; John 17:23 John 3:1; John 4:16)

**Intro ...** What better Season of the Year than Advent to focus on our 'Abba Father' and what better verses in all the Scripture to begin this season with than these ...

**TODAY'S KEY SCRIPTURES ...**

"For God **SO LOVED** the world that He **GAVE** His one and only **SON**, that whoever believes in him shall not **PERISH** but have eternal life."

(John 3:16)

"May they be brought to complete unity to let the world **KNOW** that you sent me and have **LOVED** them even **as** you have loved **ME**."

(John 17:23)

"How great is the **LOVE** the Father has **LAVISHED** on us, that we should be called **CHILDREN** of God!"

(1 John 3:1)

"We **KNOW** and **RELY** on the love God has for us."

(1 John 4:16)

Out of those **Four Key Verses** arises ...

**TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...**

Our 'Abba Father' is **LOVING ... LAVISHLY** Loving.  
We need to learn to **BASK** in His **LOVE**.

Just picture that for a moment:

You **'basking'** in your *'Abba Father's'* Love.

**'BASKING'** ... it means: to relax, to enjoy, to savor, to relish, to luxuriate,  
Or as I would put it this morning:

*"to be completely caught up in and blessed by."*

This is how **'Abba's Love'** can affect all who have come to know Him.

Allow the truths contained in these four verses this morning to help you  
**'Begin your Bask.'**

#### **FOUR OBSERVATIONS AND FOUR APPLICATIONS:**

##### **1. HIS LOVE (Our Abba's Love) IS BOUNDLESS ...**

*"When we bask in His Love our love is too."*

*"God **so** loved ... that He gave His one and only son ..."*

(John 3:16)

This is the heart of the Christmas Story.

It's the story of the Lavish Love of the Heavenly Father demonstrated  
in the sending of His Beloved Son into the world to become the  
Savior of men. He loves us **'that'** much.

The *'Father's Love'* is the ultimate *'Reason for the Season'!*

We cannot **'bask'** in our Abba's Love - we cannot be *'caught up'*  
in the *'boundlessness'* of it and remain *'stingy'* with our own.  
We just can't!

More and more will our love broaden until there is no human being  
who falls outside its scope - no human being that we would ignore  
or despise.

## 2. **HIS LOVE** (Our Abba's Love) **IS FOCUSED ON HIS SON ...**

*"When we bask in His Love, our love does too."*

*"You have loved them **even as you have loved me.**"*

(John 17:23)

In this verse, we catch a glimpse of the Father 'Through the eyes of His Son,' don't we?

Jesus knew that though the Christmas Story reveals the lavishness of His Father's Love for the world of fallen men, the **focus** of His Father's Love is and has always been upon His One and Only Eternal Son ...

The **focus** of His Father's Love is and has always been upon the Son that He (through His Holy Spirit) gently lowered to earth and placed in Mary's womb nine months before that first Christmas Day.

It was the miracle of all miracles. The Eternal Son of God entered into the temporal world of men. He would be given the name '*Jesus.*'

Never was the Son of God more '*Beloved*' than the day He declared: "*I come to do Your Will, O God.*" (Hebrews 10:7)

Jesus himself knew just how lavishly the Father loved him and He then used that knowledge to reveal the depth of the Father's Love for those who give themselves to Him as their Lord and Savior.

We cannot bask in the Father's Love without feeling our hearts fill with love for His Son, our Savior, Jesus.

What a wonderful season of the year it is to do just that!

## 3. **HIS LOVE** (Our Abba's Love) **DECLARES US TO BE HIS OWN ...**

*"When we bask in His Love, we feel it to be true."*

*"That we should be called **Children of God!**"*

(1 John 3:1)

This Observation and Application arises from the very verse that provides our '*adverb of the day*' ... "**Lavishly.**"

Here's the rest of it (1 John 3:1) ...

*"How great is the Love the Father has **lavished** on us  
that we should be called 'Children of God!'"*

And not only does He '**Call us His Own**' - He treats us '**As His Own**.'

We have become full-fledged, birth-certificate-granted Children of God!

The '*Father in Heaven*' - the Loving Father of our Lord Jesus Christ -  
has become our '*Lavishly Loving Abba*.'

When we '*Bask in His Love*' we feel it and know it to be true.

And as a result ...

**4. HIS LOVE (Our Abba's Love) PROVIDES A FOUNDATION FOR US ...**

*"When we bask in His Love, we count on it all day through."*

*"We ... **rely** on the love God has for us."*

(1 John 4:16)

There is nothing better in all the universe to '**rely upon**' than the  
Love of our '*Abba Father*' ...

Abba's Father-Love opens the storehouse of heaven to us.

Abba's Father-Love sent '*Pneuma Himself*' to companion us.

We can count on '*Abba's Father-Love*' all day through!

Confess with me the truth of today's ...

***Final Thot ...***

My '*Abba Father*' is **LAVISHLY LOVING** ...

There is no one who can **OUT-LOVE** Him.

I will **BASK** in His Love always!